

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Original) A handle, in particular for motor vehicle strip doors, of the type fastened in the rear frame (20) of the window of each door comprising a gripping part (1a) that can be actuated manually via a groove (2), and means for transmitting the movement (6, 7, 9 to 13) of said gripping part (1a) to a lock so as to activate a bolt of said lock to open said door, characterized in that said transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13) are arranged in a direction substantially parallel to the gripping part (1a), and mainly in the lower zone thereof, so as to optimize the internal longitudinal space of said rear frame (20).

2. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a handle support (4) fastened in the frame of the door and on which is arranged the gripping part (1a) of said handle (1) and at least part of said movement transmission means (6, 7, 9 to 13).

3. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that it comprises a panel or mask (5) located in the same plane as the external surface of the rear frame (20), at a certain distance from the handle (1), so that said panel or mask (5) conceals said handle (1) from the outside.

4. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, characterized in that the gripping part (1a) comprises, at each of its ends, a guide element (6) cooperating with the support (4) to allow the gripping part (1a) to move in translation and/or rotation when it is actuated by the user.

5. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the gripping part (1a) moves both in translation and rotation when it is actuated by the user such that said gripping part moves according to a small angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the surface of the door.

6. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the gripping part comprises two guide elements (6) each located at one end of the gripping element, which can slide along a rail (7) of the support (4), allowing the gripping part to move in translation when it is actuated by the user.

7. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the translational movement of the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1), when actuated by the user, is in a certain direction which maintains a small angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the surface of said panel or mask (5).

8. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4, characterized in that it comprises, in its side zone closest to the groove (2) for insertion of the hand, a longitudinal protective wing (8) for covering said handle.

9. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, characterized in that the means for transmitting the movement of the handle (1) comprise a pivoting pin (9) parallel to the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1), having two arms (10) each located at one end of the latter, each arm (10) having a shank (11) and each shank (11) being

associated respectively with a guide element (6) of the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1); elastic return means for said pivoting pin (9); and a lever (12) which receives the movement of the arm (10) located at the bottom and transmits it to a rod (3) of the lock which activates the bolt for opening said door.

10. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that said lever (12) is located in the lower zone of said handle (1).

11. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~, characterized in that the end of the lever (12) which receives the movement of the arm (10) located at the bottom has an essentially cylindrical profile.

12. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, characterized in that the means for transmitting the movement of the handle (1) comprise a pivoting pin perpendicular to the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1).

13. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4 to 12~~ claim 4, characterized in that it comprises sliding elements at each guide element (6) to facilitate the assembly of the handle and ensure good sealing of the latter.

14. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the gripping part of the handle (1a) has an extension (21) in its lower part.

15. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the means for transmitting the movement of the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1) comprise a pivoting pin (22) located in a longitudinal corner of the handle (1), allowing said gripping part (1a) to pivot when it is actuated by the user; elastic return means for said pivoting pin (22); and a lever (12) which receives the movement of the lower extension (21) and transmits it to the rod (3) which activates the bolt for opening said door.

16. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that said lever (12) is located in the lower zone of said handle (1).

17. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 15 ~~or 16~~, characterized in that the end of the lever (12) which receives the movement of the lower extension (21) has an essentially cylindrical profile.

18. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1) has, at its top and bottom, substantially tubular respective shanks (31, 32) having a certain peripheral profile, which allow said gripping part to move upward and downward.

19. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that said upper shank (31) integral with the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1) receives the downward or upward movement via a complementary profiled part (33) made in the support of the handle (1).

20. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 18 ~~or~~ 19, characterized in that the means for transmitting the movement of the handle (1) comprise a pivoting pin (34) located in a longitudinal corner of the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1), allowing said gripping part to pivot when it is actuated by the user; elastic return means for said pivoting pin (34); and a complementary shank (35) which receives the downward or upward movement via said lower shank (32) integral with the gripping part (1a) of the handle (1) and transmits it to the rod (3) which activates the bolt for opening said door.

21. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, characterized in that it comprises means for fastening the support (4) of the handle (1) to the panel or mask (5).

22. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that said fastening means comprise two pairs of wings integral with said support (4), located respectively on each upper and lower surface of the support, said wings being mutually parallel and separated by a certain distance; and two U-shaped elements integral with the panel or mask (5), which are coupled respectively between each pair of wings, each pair of wings being respectively fastened to each U-shaped element using a pin or a similar component.

23. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 2 ~~or~~ 3, characterized in that it comprises means for fastening the support (4) and the panel or mask (5) to the rim of the rear frame (20) of the window of the door, particularly the rear door, of the motor vehicle.

24. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 23, characterized in that said fastening means preferably comprise at least two fastening elements which couple the support (4) to the

rim of the frame (20) and at least one fastening element which retains the panel or mask (5) on the rim of the frame (20).

25. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that it further comprises a guide piece (18), for guiding the downward and/or upward movement of the glass pane of the door window, located on the rim of the frame of the door and to which the support (4) of the handle (1) is fastened.

26. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that the guide piece (18) has guide means (19) comprising a seal at the edge of the glass pane.

27. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 25 ~~or 26~~, characterized in that the panel or mask (5) is applied to the guide piece (18).

28. (Original) The handle as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that it comprises means for fastening the panel or mask (5) to the guide piece (18) and means for fastening the support of the handle (1) to the guide piece (18).

29. (Currently amended) Opening system, in particular for a motor vehicle door, characterized in that it comprises a handle as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 28~~. claim 1.